Ps. 90 17 And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us.

Theme-Intro. God's Autumnal Beauty.

The season bids us "Take Beauty in as we go along."

"Take Beauty in as We go Along"

What shall we do when the autumn weather
And the autumn duties come together;
When the golden days are fair and sweet,
When the bright leaves rustle under our feet,
And the air is a sparkling wine;
Yet cares pile thick and the hours crowd fast,
And things to be done go hurrying past,
In an urgent, beckoning line?

We must keep our hearts and our souls awake
To beautiful things for duty's sake;
With vision keen and with courage strong,
Take beauty in as we go along.—*Sel.*

Body. The Beauty of Autumn

I. In Itself

1. Behold! It needs no description

In October.

By Helen M. Richardson.

Grapes hang thick in purple clusters,
Apples ripen on the trees;
Sunsets show us burnished lusters;
Acorns fall with every breeze
That in sportive mood allures them
To outwit the squirrel's chase,
And among the leaves to cuddle
In some quiet hiding-place.

Grass-blades show a russet color,
Gentians sport in bonnets blue,
Golden-rod grows white and aged,
Milkweed lifts her seeds to view;
Red and gold blaze all the hedgerows,
Cranberries blush their leaves among,
And aloft upon the tree-tops
Crimson banners wide are flung.

Leaps the blood and thrill the pulses
As the wind careers along;
While the lark from out the meadow
Upward soars on wings of song.
Like a queen, October's presence
Dominates the field and wood—
Matchless in her magic touches,
Naught has yet her charm withstood.

—*Sel.*

I In Itself (Continued)

2. Behold! the beauty of God, the loveliness of Jesus.

II = Its harmonious order

1. Matchless blending of colors — Nature's thanksgiving to God for His abundant Harvest.
2. Our hearts should be set aglow in thanksgiving & praise unto the Giver of all Good.

III. Its laying-bare process.

1. The falling leaves prepare the way for the new growth.
2. Repentance, a laying-bare process, paves the way for God's salvation. Hebrew "Yeshuf" = "Salvation."

IV. Its restfulness.

1. After a season of activity the sap returns to root and all amid a calm, all nature rests.

How soft the light that lies on all the scene,
How sweet the stillness of the hazy noon,
When first succeed to summer's living green
The autumn splendors. Then the glorious moon
Sails in a purer heaven, and bright stars shed
A blessed radiance on the paths of men.

— *J. H. Bryant.*

2. We need to punctuate our seasons of activity with periods of rest.
3. In Autumn the stars shine nearer and clearer.

Read.

The autumn time has come;
On woods that dream of bloom,
And over purpling vines
The low sun fainter shines.

The aster flower is failing,
The hazel's gold is pallng;
Yet overhead more near
The eternal stars appear.

—*Whittier*

In times of restful meditation we see God more clearly and He is so much closer to us.

V. Autumn, the Sunset of the year.

1. Pale in her fading bowers the Summer stands,
Like a new Niobe with claspèd hands,
Mute o'er the faded flowers, her children lost,
Slain by the arrows of the early frost!
The clouded heaven above is pale and gray,
The misty earth below is wan and drear,
The baying winds chase all the leaves away,
As cruel hounds pursue the trembling deer;
It is a solemn time, the sunset of the year.

—*R. H. Stoddard.*

2. Old age, the sunset of earthly life,
the beautiful sunset of a Xn life!

VI Autumn & Spring the pillars of the arch bridging Winter's dark chasm

1. The year passes over safely to X
2. The X-life & the resurrection from the dead are the pillars sustaining the arch solidly over Death's dark chasm across which the redeemed in Christ pass to their Eternal Homes.